

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-01 IO-10 FDRE-00

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 EB-07 HEW-02 /101 W

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R 161210Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3671

8TH LOG COMMAND, CAMP DARBY, LEGHORN, ITALY

INFO AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

USAFE, RAMSTEIN, GERMANY

SECDEF

USCINCEUR

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STATE ALSO FOR AID

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, OCLR, PFOR, IT

SUBJECT: AIR SHIPMENT CHARGES - DISASTER RELIEF COMMODITIES
FROM CAMP DARBY

REFS: A) STATE 243906; B) ROME 14876

1. UPON REVIEW OF DISASTER RELIEF FILE EMBASSY CAN FIND
NO MENTION OF COMMERCIAL DISASTER RELIEF FLIGHTS BEING SPECIFICALLY EXEMPTED FROM FEES AND NORMAL USER CHARGES. AGREEMENT WAS BASED ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS AND NOT TIED EXPLICITLY TO ANY OF THE NATO UMBRELLA OR NATO BILATERAL AGREEMENTS UPON WHICH EMBASSY COULD MAKE COMPELLING TECHNICAL CASE FOR WAIVER OF FEES. 2. EMBASSY NOW UNDERSTANDS THAT BASIS OF "MISUNDERSTANDING" BETWEEN PISA AIRPORT AUTHORITIES AND SATURN AIRWAYS IS LONGSTANDING DISPUTE BETWEEN THEM RELATED TO SIZE OF FEES CHARGED AND LACK OF PROMPTNESS IN THEIR PAYMENT. PLANE AT PISA BEING LOADED AS OF 1000 LOCAL 16 OCTOBER. TRANSPORTATION OFFICER AT 8TH LOG COMMAND, CAMP DARBY, INFORMS US THAT FLIGHT IN QUESTION IS NEITHER MAC,
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UN, NOR FAO CHARTER ANY OF WHICH SHOULD HAVE BEEN AUTOMATICALLY

EXEMPTED FROM NORMAL AIRPORT FEES. WE ASSUME, THEREFORE, THAT IT IS AN AID CHARTER.

3. GIVEN GOI AND EC INTEREST IN HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO CYPRUS REFUGEES, EMBASSY IS OF THE OPINION THAT--GIVEN ENOUGH LEAD TIME--EXEMPTIONS COULD BE ARRANGED FOR SUCH FLIGHTS. WE MUST CAUTION, HOWEVER, THAT MOVING SUCH A REQUEST THRU THE CIVAIR BUREAUCRACIES WOULD NOT BE A QUICK NOR SIMPLE PROCESS. IF PAYMENT OF THESE FEES POSES A CURRENT PROBLEM FOR AID BUDGET OR CARRIERS, AN EASIER SOLUTION MIGHT BE TO UTILIZE MAC CHARTERS FOR SUCH FLIGHTS. MOREOVER, WE UNDERSTAND THAT MAC CHARTERS ARE ABLE TO USE MILITARY SIDE OF THE PISA AIRPORT WHICH IN SOME CASES FACILITATES HANDLING.

4. TO BETTER RENDER ASSISTANCE IN FUTURE EMBASSY WOULD LIKE TO KNOW IF ADDRESSEES FEEL THIS WAS JUST AN ISOLATED CASE OWING TO PARTICULAR "AIRPORT-CARRIER" PROBLEMS? HAVE OTHER COMMERCIAL OR AID CHARTERS HAD TO PAY FEES WHEN USING PISA AIRPORT FOR SIMILAR DISASTER RELIEF OPERATIONS? WE PRESUME MILITARY FLIGHTS AND MAC CHARTERS HAVE ENCOUNTERED NO SUCH DIFFICULTIES. VOLPE

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